COMMANDERS DIGEST

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No Present Plans To Call Reserves

There are no present plans for calling up reserve component forces to deal with the Vietnamese situation, U.S. officials have stressed.

It was noted, however, that contingencies might arise in Southeast Asia or elsewhere that would require calling up some or all of the reserve components. Active duty tours could also be extended.

Referring to President Johnson's statement that the U.S. has no desire to widen the war in Southeast Asia, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said, "We cannot preclude the possibility that our opponents will nevertheless choose to do so."

This was in his recent "posture" testimony concerning other Far East contingencies.

Current U.S. plans are to maintain 10 division force equivalents in the reserve components in addition to active divisions, making nine for Army and one for the Marine Corps.

FREEDOM AWARDS—Recipients of Freedoms Foundation awards for their respective services are (left to right) Maj. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr., USMC; Maj. Gen. Eugene B. LeBailly, USAF; Maj. Gen. Robert F. Seedlock, USA; and RAdm. Leonard Bailey, USN. At far right is Dr. Kenneth D. Wells, president of the Foundation. The services were honored for their civic action programs. Gen. Seedlock also accepted an award on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.

Army Expands Pilot Training In Move to Ft. Stewart, Ga.

The Army is moving a portion of its fixed-wing aviator training program from Ft. Rucker, Ala., to Ft. Stewart, Ga., and increasing its graduates.

As part of the expansion in training for rotary and fixed-wing aviators, there will be an increase in student training at the Army Primary Helicopter School, Ft. Wolters, Tex., and Army Aviation School headquarters, Ft. Rucker.

The expansion program is scheduled to begin this summer.

Rotary wing graduates of primary training at Ft. Wolters and advanced training at Ft. Rucker presently total 290 monthly, but will increase to 375 under the new program.

Fixed-Wing Training Program at Ft. Rucker will graduate 50 new pilots monthly, compared to present average of 25. Increase will result in 20 weeks of 35-week training being shifted to Ft. Stewart, and remaining 15-weeks continued at Ft. Rucker.

Charge U.S. Over-Extended Is Termed 'Absolutely False'

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said it is "absolutely false" to say this country has over extended and cannot fulfill military commitments elsewhere in the world.

"We've never been better prepared to face the commitments," the Secretary explained when asked about reports to the contrary.

At the same time, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler said he doesn't agree with a report that the U.S. military has almost exhausted its trained and ready military units with all available forces spread dangerously thin in Vietnam and elsewhere.

"We are not exhausted by any manner of means," the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Secretary McNamara said this country should be better prepared than ever before to meet its commitments, explaining that $50 billion has been spent above the previous expenditure levels for defense in the last four or five years.

Washington Memos

ELEVEN NORTHROP F-5 SUPERSONIC jet fighters left Edwards AFB, Calif., Feb. 21, on 6,200-mile flight to join Royal Norwegian Air Force as first-line tactical fighters. Group is first delivery of 64 F-5s Northrop Corp. is building for Norway.

MILITARY PERSONNEL OVERALL strength will increase to an estimated 2,987,343 by the end of FY66, rising to 3,093,109 by the end of FY67. This represents an overall increase of nearly 440,000 from the actual strength totals recorded at the end of FY65.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL STRENGTH will increase to an estimated 1,087,116 by the end of FY66, rising to 1,093,000 by the end of FY67. This is an overall increase of almost 105,000 from the actual strength totals recorded at the end of FY65, and reverses the consistently downward trend in Defense civilian employment.

ACTIVE GROUND FORCES will total the equivalent of 22 1/3 divisions when the current build-up is completed. This will make 18 1/3 for Army, including four independent brigade forces, and four for the Marine Corps.

T-38 TALON IS now used by Undergraduate Pilot Training students at Laredo AFB, Tex., the seventh ATC base using the supersonic trainer in the UPT program. Craig AFB, Ala., is scheduled to receive the T-38 in March.

NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK submarines Queenfish (SSN-651) and Sturgeon (SSN-637) were launched Feb. 25 and Feb. 26, respectively. Ceremonies for Queenfish were held at Newport News, Va., and the Sturgeon at Groton, Conn.

TIRE RETREADING PROGRAM for B-52 bombers is under study at Air Force Logistics Command's Ogden Air Materiel Area, Hill AFB, Utah. If tests are successful, Air Force can save $2.5 million on logistics support annually.

TWO WAC MEMBERS have returned to the United States after helping organize RVN's Women's Armed Forces Corps (WAFC). They are Maj. Kathleen I. Wilkes and MSgt. Betty Adams. Replacing them as WAFC advisors are Lt. Col. Judith C. Bennett and SFC Jane Szalobryt.

PATRIOTISM IS RESPONSIBLE for most WAFC enlistments, said Sgt. Adams. The all-volunteer organization differs from U.S. women's services, since it represents all of RVN's armed forces. Most volunteers are 17-18 year-old high school graduates who are assigned to non-combat type duties with Army, Navy and Air Force organizations.

COMPUTER VERSATILITY HAS been demonstrated by USCG, which bought a computer described as primitive, tinkered with it, and "taught it navigation." Now a minute-by-minute track is kept of 1,000 ships simultaneously, assuring speedier assistance to vessels in trouble.

MORE THAN $20,000 IS daily, non-reimbursable cost to large passenger liners diverting from course to answer an SOS. Traditionally, all ships in general area respond. Ship captains may now request guidance from Coast Guard's computer system.

NAVY SURGEON GENERAL sent Dr. Ben Eiseman, civilian consultant and advisor in surgery, on six-week tour of Navy medical facilities in the Pacific, Feb. 16. He will study resuscitation problems and evaluate surgical facilities, equipment and procedures.

ROBERT M. OSWALD, ASSISTANT National Director of Red Cross Safety Services responsible for First Aid since 1962, was appointed Deputy Director of Safety Services Feb. 16.

ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL, Ft. Benning, Ga., conducted tests on pop-up targets that shoot back. Soldiers wearing protective clothing fire at new targets. If they miss, pellet gun behind silhouette fires back. Army officials said test was successful.

AIR FORCE LOGISTICS Command has conducted tests to extend service life of pressure gas generator on Minuteman missile, enabling Air Force to eliminate $139,000 in new procurement costs. Tests show service life can be extended from 36 to 48 months.

CURRENT RECORD HOLDERS in long-duration space flights are Astronauts Col. Frank Borman, USAF, and Capt. James A. Lovell Jr., USN. Their Gemini 7 spacecraft was launched Dec. 4 and recovered two weeks later.

LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA COMPANY has reported new Model 286 helicopter reached 206 mph., believed fastest ever for pure rotorcraft under 5,000 pounds, during flight evaluation program conducted for Federal Aviation Agency certification.

AIR FORCE LOGISTICS command has designated San Antonio Air Materiel Area, Kelly AFB, Tex., as specialized repair activity for new C-5A heavy transport. Area will serve as focal point for major overhaul work when aircraft becomes operational, expected in 1969.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION will hold its 20th anniversary national convention at Dallas and Ft. Worth, Tex., March 22-25. Convention delegates will elect national and regional officers for coming year.

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Defense Posture Statement Reveals Strategic Adequacy

A surprise Soviet nuclear attack against the United States would bring "assured destruction" to the attackers.

This was revealed by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara in his "posture statement" to Senate committee members regarding adequacy of U.S. strategic offensive forces.

"We must assume the worst possible case—that the Soviets strike first in a well-coordinated surprise attack," he said, explaining no one can say with any degree of certainty how such a general nuclear war might evolve.

"Even if the Soviets in the 1970 period were to assign their entire available missile force to attacks on our strategic forces, our analysis shows that a very large proportion of our alert forces would still survive," he stated.

Effective delivery of even one-fifth of the surviving weapons on Soviet cities would destroy about one-third of the Soviet's total population and half their industrial capacity, the Secretary said.

The Communist Chinese can be omitted from this particular analysis, Secretary McNamara explained, since their nuclear threat is not expected to develop any earlier than the 1975-1980 period.

"It is clear, therefore, that our strategic offensive forces are far more than adequate to inflict unacceptable damage on the Soviet Union, even after absorbing a well-coordinated Soviet first strike against those forces," said Secretary McNamara.

Limited Surplus Housing Available For Families of Overseas Servicemen

A spokesman for the U.S. Continental Army Command has reported that limited surplus family housing may be available occasionally, for families of servicemen ordered overseas, at military installations in the continental U.S.

Information concerning availability of housing can be obtained from family housing officers at installations where servicemen are assigned before going overseas. Personnel would then apply to the family housing officer at installations in the desired area.

Reported as available are units at St. Louis, Mo., Support Center; Deep Creek, Va., under supervision of Ft. Story, Va.; Pittsburgh, Pa., under supervision of U.S. Army Support Detachment, Oakdale, Pa.; Ft. Stewart, Ga.; Seattle, Wash., under the supervision of Ft. Lewis, Wash.; and Ft. Riley, Kan.

These are in addition to more than 700 Capehart housing units at Schilling AFB, Kan., set aside for separated families. Interested personnel should contact the Family Housing Officer, Ft. Riley, Kan.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR—Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey (right) is escorted by Maj. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman, USA, during his visit to the 1st Infantry Division headquarters, Di An, RVN.

Five Receive Special Freedoms Recognition

Among those cited for special recognition by the Freedoms Foundation are a Medal of Honor holder, two Marine Corps officers, a DOD civilian and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

The Freedom Leadership Medal was awarded to Capt. Roger H. C. Donlon, USA, Ft. Bragg, N. C., "a symbol of our Country's faith in freedom, an example of the patriotic manhood that has served and saved the United States of America since 1776." Capt. Donlon won the Medal of Honor in the battle of Nam Dong, RVN.

Maj. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr., USMC, Camp Lejeune, N. C., received the National Recognition Award for prudent and capable guidance encouraging academically sound teaching of American principles and patriotism in the dependent's school system.

Mr. John C. Broger, Director, Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, DOD, received $100 and an encased George Washington Honor Medal for his public address "Christian Leadership Today," pointing out the problems of Christian leadership guarding freedom in today's world.

Maj. Howard L. Snider, USMC, MCAS Cherry Point, Havelock, N. C., won $100 and an encased George Washington Honor Medal for his public address "Tingles, Tears and Cheers," expressing patriotic emotions.

Lt. Gen. August Schomburg, USA, Commandant, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D. C., accepted the encased George Washington Honor Medal for the college's "Freedom Takes Teamwork" program.

MC General Awarded Silver Star for Courage

Brig. Gen. Jonas M. Platt, USMC, commander of Task Force Delta, Republic of Vietnam, was awarded the Silver Star medal Feb. 16, for his exceptional leadership and courage during Operation Harvest Moon, a Marine Corps strike which destroyed a major Viet Cong supply installation and inflicted heavy casualties.

Maj. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, III Marine Amphibious Force commander, presented the medal at field headquarters of Task Force Delta, near Chu Lai.

All-Weather System Developed for C-141

An All-Weather Landing System, jointly developed by the Air Force and Federal Aviation Agency, will be installed in all C-141 Starlifters to enable the fanjet cargo-troop carriers to land safely under adverse weather conditions for both improved air fields and remote areas of the world.

This new system's basic function is to program the aircraft's flight path, speed, angle of approach and attitude at various points in the approach and touch-down path. It then generates and provides the necessary information either to the pilot who then flies the proper path and speed —or to the autopilot which flies the plane automatically.

LAST OF THE FIRST—The foundation of the first permanent structure at MAG-36 airfield, Chu Lai, RVN, gets a final touch from the CO, Col. William G. Johnson, USMC. When completed, building will be the Group's church, seating 180 people.

Radiation Science Lab To be Activated by AF

A new $600,000 Radiation Science Laboratory (RSL), designed to conduct specialized studies of the effects of ionizing radiation, will soon be activated at the Aerospace Medical Division's USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Tex.

The RSL will greatly increase the school's ability to investigate effects of nuclear and space radiation and extend its in-house capability for radiobiological research.

USAF Jet Transport Modified for Space Use

A new space communications recording and optics tracking system, the Apollo Range Instrumented Aircraft (ARIA), will be ready for use in early 1967.

Modified from a standard C-135A jet transport, ARIA will be the first of eight such aircraft instrumented to meet support requirements for Apollo and other military and civilian space programs.

The project is a joint development effort of Air Force Logistics Command, Air Force Systems Command and Douglas Aircraft Corp.

Nuclear Powered Distilling Plant Successfully Tested

A successful two day operational test of the first U.S. land-based salt water distillation plant to be run on nuclear power was conducted Feb. 19-21 by the Navy at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

The plant, which will begin full-time operation at the start of Deep Freeze '67, was constructed to replace more costly and less efficient snow melters.

Operated by steam from a nuclear power plant which has been providing the station with electricity and heat since July 1962, the entire plant is designed to operate automatically without regularly assigned personnel.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

RAdm. Paul P. Blackburn Jr., USN, relieved **RAdm. Forsyth Massey, USN,** as CofS, U.S. Strike Command, MacDill AFB, Fla. The latter relieves **RAdm. Magruder H. Tuttle, USN,** as Comdr. Fleet Air, Quonset Point, R.I., who becomes Chief of Naval Air Technical Training, NAS Memphis, Tenn., relieving **RAdm. Allen Smith Jr., USN,** who retires April 1. **Brig. Gen. George B. Pickett Jr., USA,** Combat Developments Command Deputy CG, and Chief of Staff, to become CG, 2nd Inf. Div. Korea, in July. Replacing him is **Brig. Gen. Julian J. Ewell,** Chief of Staff, V Corps. **Brig. Gen. Walter E. Brinker, USA,** CG, I Corps (Gp.) Arty., to become USAREUR Comptroller.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Southern Atlantic Co., Inc., Knoxville, Tenn.: $1,680,462 fixed-price contract for 266,740 pairs of men's cotton, wind resistant trousers. **(DSA)**

AVCO Corp., Richmond, Ind.: $312,154 initial increment to a $2,365,679 fixed-price contract for metal parts for 40mm projectiles. **(Army)**

Westinghouse Electric Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.: $11,022,470 contract for designing and furnishing of reactor plant components for nuclear powered ships. **(Navy)**

General Electric Co., West Lynn, Mass.: $2,782,675 and $2,500,000 in two fixed-price contracts for production of T-58 aircraft engines and component improvement work. **(Air Force)**

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